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California Legislature



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ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TENTH DISTRICT

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October 9, 2002

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docker # 02-306

Dear Commissioners:


As Vice-Chair of the California Assembly Utilities & Commerce Committee, I urge your support of SBC Pacific Bell in their effort to enter California's long distance market. In order for California consumers to benefit from a truly open and fully competitive market, every provider must be allowed to compete on fair and equal terms. SBC's long distance entry is the right step to take.

Every time that the Federal Communications Commission has approved an application for long distance entry, consumers have benefited as companies compete more vigorously and offer consumers greater savings. SBC Pacific Bell's entry will benefit California consumers as well – estimates by the Telecommunications and Research Action Center put the savings in California at up to \$800 million a year.

Competition in the industry is now the norm in California, and it is necessary therefore for SBC Pacific Bell to be granted the opportunity to compete. At the same time, as the industry has clearly shifted to a new era, regulators should begin to apply their rules in a balanced and equitable manner across the industry – not targeting certain companies for regulations.

It is my understanding that the FCC has granted approval for long distance authority in 23 other states, providing more than 100 million Americans with the benefits of a competitive telecommunications market. It is now California's turn.

Sincerely,


ANTHONY PESCETTI
Assemblyman, 10th District

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